

State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: IMMEDIATE Contact: Ernie Seneca
Date: September 4, 2003 Phone: 919/733-5612

EASLEY SPEAKING AT UNIVERSAL LEAF TOBACCO PLANT OPENING IN NASHVILLE

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley will speak at grand opening ceremonies for Universal Leaf Tobacco Co.'s new 1.2 million-square-foot processing facility on <u>Friday (September 5) at 11 a.m., Nash Processing</u> Facility, Green Leaf Storage Room, (3174 Boddie Mill Pond Road off Highway 58), Nashville.

Universal Leaf is investing \$100 million in the facility and associated operations. More than 1,000 workers are to be employed.

* Contact: Todd Haymore of Universal Leaf Tobacco, office (252) 462-4317 or cell (804) 240-0126. *

Directions: From Raleigh, drive east on Highway 64 toward Rocky Mount. Take Highway 58 exit at Nashville and head north toward Castalia. Travel north on Highway 58 for approximately 5 miles. Turn left onto Boddie Mill Pond Road, and follow directions of law enforcement personnel and company officials on hand to direct attendees.

###